

#10/Election
3/5/02
Mellin

PATENT APPLICATION

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kazuhiko OKAWA

Group Art Unit: 2826

Application No.: 09/866,800

Examiner: J. Monet

Filed: May 30, 2001

Docket No.: 109657

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE HAVING ELECTROSTATIC PROTECTION CIRCUIT
AND METHOD OF FABRICATING THE SAME

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

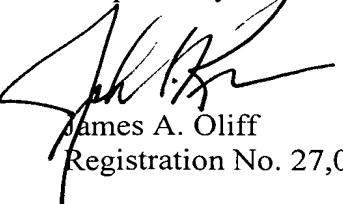
Sir:

~~In reply to the Restriction Requirement mailed February 13, 2002, Applicant
provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-7 and 20-23 drawn to a MOS transistor device, with
traverse.~~

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-24 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 27, 2002

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